

# **The Whole Enchilada**



**A turn-key  
approach to  
environmental  
education**

# The Whole Enchilada

- Curriculum
- Teacher Training
- Equipment & Supplies
- Fieldtrips
- Funding
- Volunteers to manage and/or conduct programs
  - The most essential ingredient
  - Community involvement



# Why This Turn-Key Approach?

- Teachers lack time
  - Testing Demands
  - Social Demands
  - Administrative Demands
- School budgets tight
  - Fieldtrip transportation
  - Equipment, supplies for hands-on activities
- Teachers lack knowledge
  - Local ecosystems not addressed in text books

# Bay and Island Adventures

## 5-Year Evolution

- Goal - Local schools visit Island's State Park
- Teacher Education – Project Wild Aquatic
- Fieldtrip Disappointments and Marketing
- Camp Wild Day Camp
- Pre-fieldtrip Presentations
- Yearlong Island Adventures Program  
Treasures of the Bay 4-Day Teacher Course
- Junior Master Naturalist Pilot



# Yearlong Bay & Island Adventures

- Six in-class hands-on teaching modules
  - Water
  - Galveston Bay
  - Wetlands
  - Coastal Prairie
  - Birds
  - Gulf of Mexico







# Spring Class Fieldtrips

- All day
- Groups of 10
- Teacher/chaperone rotates with group
- Three ecosystems each with by 1-2 guides
- Everyone lunches together at nature center



# Treasures of the Bay Educator Course

- 4-Day, All Day
- Mini-MN Course
- Multiple Locations
- Class Limit 20
- \$25, 24 CEU Hrs
- Materials
- MN Support





# Learn, then Do











Rain or Shine



Celebrate!





# Camp Wild Day Camp

- Free
- 60 Kids
- 40 Adults
- 5 Days
- 12 Activities
- Great Food





- After school
- 25 students on first-registered basis
- Five volunteers
- Twice monthly meetings
- Six fieldtrips
- Activities expand on in-class modules
- Chapter Sponsored

# Involving the Community Building Relationships

## Meeting Program Needs

- Sponsors – Funding, Services, Support
- District and School Administration - Clout
- Teachers – Close Working Relationships
- Parents – Cooperation and Support
- Volunteers – Passion and Commitment



# Involving the Community Building Relationships

## Meeting Partner Needs

- Sponsors – renown, accountability, gratitude
- District, School Administration - distinction
- Teachers – applicable curriculum assistance
- Parents – student learning
- Volunteers – (we'll review in detail)

# Volunteer Management





# Volunteer

One who freely chooses or offers to do something without being obliged and with no compensation expected



# T E X A S Volunteer Sources



- Master Naturalist <http://www.nralliance.org/>
- Environmental organizations
- Area industry, health care, education
- Retiree groups – also contact above organizations for their retiree groups

# Form a Relationship with your Volunteer Source Organization

- Give-and-take partnership is best – Do you have anything to offer them?
- Describe your organization, your program, your funding source
- Define program's volunteer needs – Why can't paid staff do the job?
- Arrange a recruitment presentation
- FFF

# Recruiting Volunteers

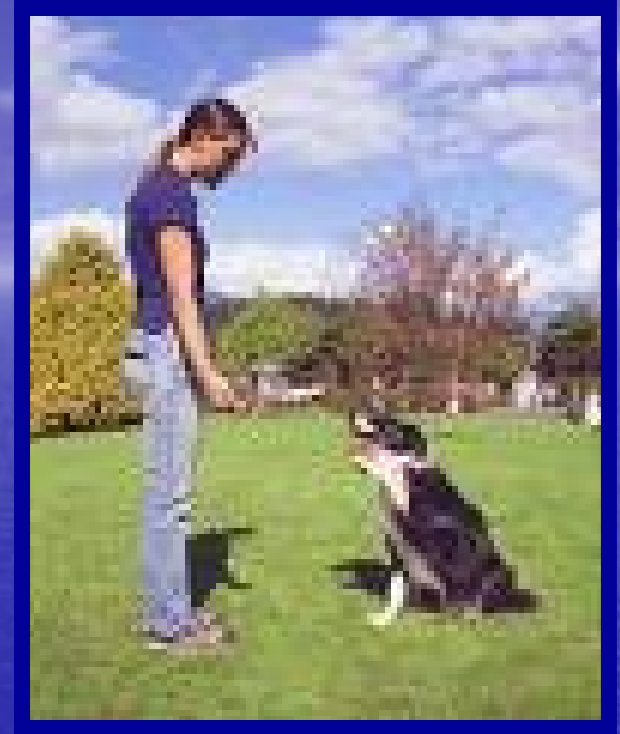


- Match job to volunteer interest
  - “What do you like to do?”
- Identify skills and interests – “What are you good at? What would you like to try?”
- Provide written job description - Define the work, not the person
  - Focus on essential elements, time constraints
  - Specify requisites, i.e. background check, training requirements,
- Sign ‘em up and schedule training! FFF



# Training Volunteers

- Agenda – time is valuable
- Tight schedule - start on time, end on time
- Focus on task essentials
- Thoroughly cover topic
- Notebook/CD – Materials, Contact List
- Include hands-on experience
- Partner newbie with experienced volunteer
- FFF



# Retaining Volunteers

## Some Don't's

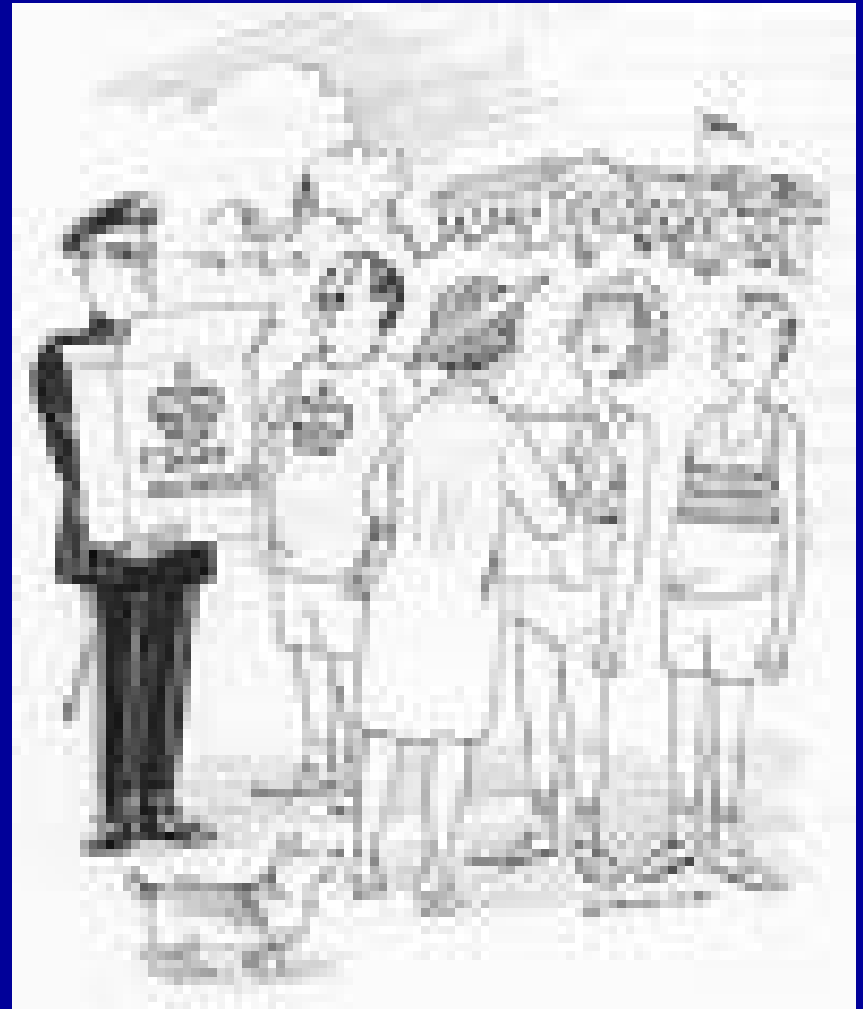
- No demands
- No patronizing
- No dumping
- No guilt
- No bait and switch
- No gossip



# Retaining Volunteers

## Some Do's

- Be organized and efficient
- Communicate clearly and completely
- Focus on individual interests and abilities
- Encourage ownership
- Take care of human needs
- Be tolerant and forgive with grace
- Always include FFF
- Show gratitude
- Celebrate!





# Fun, Food, Friendship



# Presenters

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**Galveston Bay Area Chapter—Texas Master Naturalists  
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